

Washington Scene . . . By George Dixon

Pen Is Mightier Than the Moving Van

THE UNITED States Information Agency, which has a few sidelines, including the Voice of America, used to be at 1778 Pennsylvania ave. It is not at that address any longer although it has not moved so much as a piece of information. The miracle was performed by the mere waving of an interoffice memo.



Dixon

The other day members of the staff were thinking informative thoughts, as always, trying to figure out a really good piece of information to withhold, when a private communication came down from Director Theodore C. Streibert himself.

"In future," directed Director Streibert, obviously bursting with patriotism, "do not refer to the address of the United States Information Agency as 1778 Pennsylvania ave. Refer to it as 1776."

The communication was so inspiring that members of the USIA staff have been going around ever since looking as frozenly noble as if they'd spent the winter at Valley Forge. As for the Voice of America, it could hardly contain its ecstasy over the thought that, from now henceforth, it can refer to itself as the spirit of 1776.

It seems just too bad that

the full rich flavor may be lost upon those ignorant natives of far-off lands whose knowledge of American historical dates might be sketchy.

Thus far the USIA is the only agency to achieve a change of address without moving. The White House persists in continuing to list its address at 1600 Pennsylvania ave., resisting all temptation to change it to 1854 in commemoration of the year the Republican Party was founded.

THE CIRCUS Saints and Sinners put on a rather oddly matched double-header the other day. Instead of one "fall guy," they had two—Gov. Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts and heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano.

It was relatively easy to tell them apart because Gov. Herter wore a necktie, and Marciano, who has no announced aspirations to be President or Vice President, did not bother to look too pleased while being ribbed.

In fact, the champ looked downright upset for a moment at a skit which confused Rocky Marciano with Lucky Luciano.

Rocky and the governor both hail from Brockton, Mass., which provided the inspiration for a blackout loaded with regional prejudice. An actor, made up as a southern colonel, offered cash, property and tax exemption to Rocky if he would move from New England to the South.

"Get out of here!" screamed another actor, made up as Gov. Herter. "Marciano is the only profitable industry left in Brockton."

ALLEN DULLES, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, came in while Harold Robinson, president of the Saints and Sinners, was telling about his trip to Boston to arrange for the show with Gov. Herter. Les Kramer, who wrote the skits, supplied this apocryphal punch line:

"The Governor arranged for the commanding general of the Massachusetts National Guard to receive President Robinson with great honors. The General went to the airport but couldn't figure out which passenger was Robinson. Of course, the general is no longer head of the National Guard. He's been assigned to intelligence."

THE CHANCES of Gov. Herter getting a shot at the GOP presidential nomination were roundly discussed. His qualification is being questioned because he was born out of the United States of America.

"This," summed up Kramer, "puts him in a class with Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., Gina Lollobrigida, and Aly Khan."

I'm not altogether sure I got that last crack because there has never been any doubt of Gina's qualifications.

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